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AUTHOR Frazer, Linda
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ABSTRACT

This document comprises a summary of dropout statistics for the Austin (Texas) Independent School District for 1983-84 through 1987-88. The following dropout counts are reported: (1) the school-year and annual dropout counts for 1983-84 through 1987-88; (2) the current status of the entering ninth graders of years 1983-84 through 1987-88; and (3) the current status of entering seventh graders of years 1985-86, 1986-87, and 1987-88. The following major findings are discussed: (1) slightly more (27.8 percent) of the students who entered ninth grade for the first time in 1984-85 have dropped out than those who entered in 1983-84 (26.7 percent); (2) the four-year dropout rate for the 1984-85 group comprised 38.7 percent Hispanics, 28.6 percent Blacks, and 23.2 percent Whites; (3) the high school dropout rate for 1987-88 (10.7 percent) is 0.5 percent point higher than the school-year rate for 1986-87 and the same as the school-year rate for 1985-86; (4) the school-year dropout rate for Blacks in grades 7-8 and 9-12 was lower in 1987-88 than in 1986-87, but the rates were higher for Hispanics and Whites; and (5) the school-year dropout rate for 1987-88 seventh- and eighth-graders as of July 1988 (5.9 percent) is 0.4 percentage point lower than 1986-87 and 0.8 percentage point higher than 1985-86, but the lower rates for 1987-88 may be the result of improved reporting procedures for transcript requests by junior high school students. Summary statistical data are included on ten tables. (FMW)

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1987-88 Dropout Report

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Austin, Texas
January, 1989

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1987-88 DROPOUT REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AUTHOR: Linda Frazer

OTHER CONTACT PERSON: Glynn Ligon

The Office of Research and Evaluation annually summarizes AISD's dropout statistics for grades 7-12. In this report the school-year and annual dropout counts for 1983-84 through 1987-88 are reported, as well as the current status of the entering ninth graders of 1983-84 through 1987-88, and entering seventh graders of 1985-86, 1986-87, and 1987-88.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- The group who entered ninth grade for the first time in 1984-85 has now been followed for four complete years. As of October, 1988, 27.8% of this group has dropped out. This is somewhat higher than the 26.7% four-year rate for the 1983-84 group.

- The four-year dropout rate for Hispanics from the 1984-85 group is 38.7%, for Blacks 28.6%, and for Anglo/Others 23.2%.

- The high school dropout rate for the school year 1987-88, as of July 1, 1988, was 10.7%. This is 0.5 percentage point higher than the school-year rate for 1986-87 and the same as the school-year rate for 1985-86.

- For grades 9-12 and 7-8, the school-year dropout rate for Blacks was lower in 1987-88 than in 1986-87, while rates were higher for both Hispanics and Anglos.

- The school-year dropout rate for 1987-88 seventh and eighth graders as of July 1 was 5.9%. This is 0.4 percentage point lower than 1986-87 and 0.8 percentage point higher than 1985-86. Improved reporting procedures for transcript requests by junior high schools may be responsible for lower rates this year compared with last year.

The next page provides a summary of dropout rates which have been calculated.

FIGURE 1
SUMMARY OF DROPOUT RATES

GRADES 9-12

	83-84	84-85	85-86	86-87	87-88
School-Year Rate	9.4	11.0	10.7	10 2	10.7
Annual Rate	*	*	*	12.1	13.2
83-84 Cohort	First-Time Ninth Graders			4-Year Rate 26.7	5-Year Rate 27.9
84-85 Cohort		First-Time Ninth Graders			4-Year Rate 27.8

GRADES 7-8

School-Year Rate	*	3.9	5.1	6.3	5.9
Annual Rate	*	*	*	*	8.1
85-86 Cohort			First-Time Seventh Graders	2-Year Rate 9.6	3-Year Rate 11.6
86-87 Cohort				First-Time Seventh Graders	2-Year Rate 10.0

* Not Calculated

DEFINITIONS

1) Dropout:

A student is reported as a dropout for a school year if the individual is absent for a period of 30 or more consecutive school days without approved excuse or documented transfer, or fails to re-enroll by September 15, of the following school year without completion of a high school program.

2) School-year rate:

The percentage of students who drop out of school during the school year; e.g., from September 1, 1987 to June 1, 1988.

3) Annual rate:

The percentage of students who drop out of school during a single year; e.g., from September 1, 1987 to September 1, 1988.

4) Longitudinal rate:

The percentage of students who drop out of school from a single group (or cohort) when followed over a period of several years; e.g., a dropout rate as based on the percentage of students who enter grade 9 in 1983-84 but drop out prior to graduating from grade 12.

5) Cohort:

A single group; e.g., all students who entered 7th grade for the first time in 1987-88.

1987-88 Dropout Report

Introduction

The Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE) has been monitoring AISD's dropout situation and publishing an annual report since 1983-84. During that time the methods, time frames, cohort definitions, or some combination has changed annually as we have learned more about the complexities of counting dropouts. Although our numbers have steadily gained accuracy and meaning as a result, we have paid a price in year-to-year comparability, a fact which has been frustrating to us and to the community at large. We think it has been worth it, and that we now have a counting and reporting system that will serve us well for the foreseeable future, although state requirements resulting from House Bill 1010 may cause further changes. (For a full discussion of the issues which must be considered in counting dropouts and the evolution of AISD'S approach see "Counting Dropouts, It's Enough to Make You Want to Quit Too!," ORE Pub. No. 86.39.)

This is the second year to calculate annual dropout numbers as of October 1, in order to include summer dropouts, summer transfers, and summer graduates. For the purposes of comparison this report also includes the school-year dropout numbers as of July 1, as they have been calculated for the previous four years.

This is also the second year to calculate the high school longitudinal dropout rate based on a cohort of each year's entering ninth graders. With this method, retainees--a group particularly likely to drop out--are not counted in more than one cohort of ninth graders. No student is counted in more than one group. (For a full discussion of this issue see "1986-87 Dropout Report" Pub. No. 87.M01.)

Definition and Method

The definition of a dropout has not changed. A dropout is a student who has withdrawn from AISD and whose records have not been requested by another school or district. Students who earn GED's are counted as dropouts in our system.

In July, 1986, a longitudinal computerized database (the Secondary Student Longitudinal File, or SSLf) was constructed that enables us to answer questions about the enrollment status of any group of students at any point in time, beginning with the 1983-84 school year for high school students and the 1985-86 school year for seventh and eighth graders.

FIGURE 2
SCHOOL YEAR DROPOUT RATE BY ETHNICITY,
AS OF JULY 1 OF THE FOLLOWING SUMMER

	1983-84		1984-85		1985-86		1986-87		1987-88	
Group	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Black	286	9.7	322	10.6	314	9.8	355	10.8	334	9.4
Hispanic	554	13.8	663	16.0	661	15.3	608	13.7	689	14.7
Anglo/ Other	754	7.5	963	9.1	936	9.0	846	8.5	856	9.2
Total	1,594	9.4	1,948	11.0	1,911	10.7	1,809	10.2	1,879	10.7

The High School Annual Dropout Rates

Figure 3 shows the annual dropout rates by ethnicity as of October 1 of the following year for two school years. While the overall rate in 1987-88 was higher than 1986-87, Blacks had a lower rate.

FIGURE 3
ANNUAL DROPOUT RATES BY ETHNICITY
AS OF OCTOBER 1 OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR

	1986-87		1987-88	
Group	N	%	N	%
Black	438	12.9	441	12.4
Hispanic	667	15.0	755	16.0
Anglo/ Other	1052	10.6	1116	11.9
Total	2,157	12.1	2,312	13.2

Our method for assigning dropout status codes is as follows:

- Each year's cohort includes all students enrolled in an AISD high school at any time during the school year.
- Any student who withdraws from AISD is first considered a dropout.
- If the student's records are requested by a district, school, or other institution offering a high school diploma, the student is judged to be pursuing an education and his/her classification is changed from "dropout" to "transfer."
- In the fall following each school year, dropout statuses are assigned to each student on the file. Possible statuses are:

  --Currently enrolled as of September 15.
  --School-year dropout (withdrew during a school year, with no records request by the end of the first six weeks).
  --School-year transfer (withdrew, records requested).
  --Graduated.
  --Died.
  --Summer dropout (completed a school year, but did not enroll in the fall by September 15, and no records requested by the end of the first six weeks).
  --Summer transfer (completed a school year, did not enroll in fall, records requested.)

- The annual dropout rate is calculated by dividing the total number of dropouts (school year plus summer) by the total enrollment. This can be done for any subgroup of interest.

<u>The High School School-Year Dropout Rates</u>

Although (as explained above) the numbers available in July are necessarily incomplete and inadequate, to give a sense of the trend across time, Figure 2 shows the school-year dropout rate for the 1987-88 school year using the old July 1 cutoff date for transcript requests, compared to the four years previous. By this measure the school-year rate rose last year and was the same as the school-year rate for 1985-86. A higher rate among Hispanics and Anglo/Others accounted for the rise: the rate for Blacks decreased and was the lowest for the last five years. Anglo/Others had the highest rate in the last five years.

Figure 4 shows the dropout rates for 1987-88 high school students, broken down by sex, ethnicity, grade, and by time of dropping out. Note that from the October perspective, the number of school-year dropouts declines from 1,879 to 1,447 (reflecting returners and late records requests), but that another 865 left during the summer.

FIGURE 4
DROPOUT RATE FOR 1987-88 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS,
INCLUDING SUMMER, BY ETHNICITY, SEX, AND GRADE

	School-Year Dropouts As of July 1		September Returns or Transfers		School-Year Dropouts As of Oct. 1		Summer Dropouts		Total Annual Dropouts	
Group	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Black	334	9.4	85	2.4	249	7.0	192	5.4	441	12.4
Hispanic	689	14.7	196	4.6	493	10.5	262	5.5	755	16.0
Anglo/Other	856	9.2	151	1.7	705	7.5	411	4.4	1,116	11.9
Female	836	9.6	186	2.2	650	7.4	408	4.7	1,058	12.1
Male	1043	11.9	246	2.8	797	9.1	457	5.2	1,254	14.3
Grade 9	817	14.5	217	3.8	600	10.7	299	5.3	899	16.0
Grade 10	473	11.1	124	2.9	349	8.2	191	4.5	540	12.7
Grade 11	388	9.9	75	1.9	313	8.0	176	4.5	489	12.5
Grade 12	201	5.4	16	0.4	185	5.0	199	5.3	384	10.3
Total	1,879	10.7	432	2.4	1,447	8.3	865	4.9	2,312	13.2

The High School Longitudinal Dropout Rates

We now have two cohorts who entered ninth grade and have been followed for four complete years. Of the 4,641 students in the cohort who entered ninth grade during the 1983-84 school year: 2,613 (56.3%) have graduated from AISD, 690 (14.9%) have transferred to other districts and not returned, 34 (0.7%) are still enrolled as of the fall of 1988, 7 students have died, and 1,297 (27.9%) have dropped out.

Of the 5,071 students in the cohort who entered ninth grade during the 1984-85 school year: 2,590 (51.1%) have graduated from AISD, 878 (18.0%) have transferred to other districts and not returned, 186 (3.7%) are still enrolled as of the fall of 1988, 5 students have died, and 1,412 (27.8%) have dropped out.

Figure 5 shows the dropout pattern for this group in some detail, as well as that of the first time ninth graders from 1985-86, 1986-87, and 1987-88. The patterns for each ethnic group are also shown separately.

As the figure shows, about 40.6% of the Hispanic first-time ninth graders from 1983-84 have dropped out so far, compared to 31.7% of Blacks and 21.6% of Anglo/Others.

FIGURE 5
LONGITUDINAL DROPOUT RATE PROGRESSION OF FOUR COHORTS OF
FIRST-TIME NINTH GRADERS

Ethnicity: All

Dropout Rate As Of....

	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
Cohort	July	Oct.	July	Oct.	July	Oct.	July	Oct.	July	Oct.
1983-84	7.4	----	13.4	----	19.6	----	24.6	26.7	27.8	27.9
1984-85	9.3	----	15.7	----	22.0	21.8	26.9	27.8		
1985-86	9.4	----	15.8	15.9	21.2	20.5				
1986-87	8.3	9.9	14.5	14.3						
1987-88	8.5	11.1								

Ethnicity: Black

Dropout Rate As Of....

	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
Cohort	July	Oct.	July	Oct.	July	Oct.	July	Oct.	July	Oct.
1983-84	7.9	----	12.5	----	19.0	----	26.5	30.0	30.8	31.7
1984-85	8.2	----	11.8	----	21.4	20.8	27.2	28.6		
1985-86	6.9	----	12.6	12.8	15.3	15.5				
1986-87	7.9	9.6	12.3	13.3						
1987-88	7.1	9.4								

Ethnicity: Hispanic

Dropout Rate As Of....

	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
Cohort	July	Oct.	July	Oct.	July	Oct.	July	Oct.	July	Oct.
1983-84	10.7	----	19.6	----	29.7	----	35.7	37.7	40.2	40.6
1984-85	14.8	----	25.3	----	32.3	31.2	38.4	38.7		
1985-86	13.1	----	21.5	20.1	30.8	28.4				
1986-87	11.1	12.2	20.0	18.8						
1987-88	12.4	14.0								

Ethnicity: Anglo/Other

Dropout Rate As Of....

	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
Cohort	July	Oct.	July	Oct.	July	Oct.	July	Oct.	July	Oct.
1983-84	5.8	----	11.1	----	15.6	----	19.4	21.2	21.8	21.6
1984-85	7.4	----	13.0	----	17.0	18.1	21.9	23.2		
1985-86	8.6	----	14.2	15.0	18.7	18.5				
1986-87	7.1	8.8	12.0	12.3						
1987-88	6.9	10.1								

Counting Junior High Dropouts

We have reported annual junior high dropout rates for several years, but we have always urged that they be interpreted very cautiously because we doubted their accuracy. The problem is that junior high schools do not always request transcripts for their incoming students, probably because graduation credits are not an issue at that level.

During 1986-87 steps were taken to assess the extent of this problem and to increase the accuracy of the junior high numbers. After the extent of the problem was assessed, the first step taken was to emphasize to the schools that a written request for any records, not just a transcript, constituted valid evidence that the student was enrolled and should be reported to ORE. The second step was to supply the middle and junior high schools with postcards to give to students who withdrew. The students were to be told to give the card to an official at the school in which he or she enrolled. The official was to indicate that the student had enrolled, sign and date the card and mail it to the student's former school. It was hoped that this would reduce the "false dropout" rate. (For a full discussion of this issue see the 1986-87 Dropout Report Pub. No. 87.M01.)

Junior High Dropout Rates

Figures 6 and 7 show junior high dropout results for 1987-88. Figure 6 compares previous years' school-year rates with the 1987-88 rate as it appeared in July. As with the high school rates shown above, the July rate is given only for the purpose of comparison with previous years.

As the figure shows, there was a decrease compared to the previous year. This may be the result of improved reporting procedures discussed above. The 1987-88 rate is still higher than the rate of 1985-86 and may be the result of the large increase in the junior high retention rate, which in turn resulted from new state requirements for junior high promotion.

FIGURE 6
ANNUAL JUNIOR HIGH DROPOUT RATES FOR FOUR SCHOOL YEARS
ETHNICITY, AS OF JULY 1 OF THE FOLLOWING SUMMER

	1984-85		1985-86		1986-87		1987-88	
Group	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Black	48	2.5	50	2.6	103	5.0	85	4.6
Hispanic	162	5.8	199	7.2	278	9.1	264	9.5
Anglo/Other	177	3.3	232	5.0	224	5.1	164	4.1
Total	387	3.9	481	5.1	605	6.3	513	5.9

Junior High Annual Dropout Rates

Figure 7 shows the junior high dropout rate for 1987-88 students with summer included, broken down by sex, ethnicity, and grade. As was also true at high school, the school year dropout rate is lower than it appeared in July, as students returned in the fall or had their records requested after July 1. But again, this is more than offset by the number of summer dropouts.

FIGURE 7
DROPOUT RATE FOR 1987-88 GRADE 7-8 STUDENTS,
INCLUDING SUMMER, BY ETHNICITY, SEX, AND GRADE

Group	School-Year Dropouts As of July 1		September Returns or Transfers		School-Year Dropouts As of Oct. 1		Summer Dropouts		Total Annual Dropouts	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Black	85	4.6	37	2.0	48	2.6	80	4.4	128	7.0
Hispanic	264	9.5	89	3.2	175	6.3	137	4.9	312	11.2
Anglo/Other	164	4.1	54	1.4	110	2.7	150	3.7	260	6.4
Female	253	6.0	79	2.0	174	4.0	191	4.6	365	8.6
Male	260	5.8	101	2.3	159	3.5	176	4.0	335	7.5
Grade 7	284	6.3	114	2.5	170	3.8	168	3.7	338	7.5
Grade 8	229	5.5	66	1.6	163	3.9	199	4.8	362	8.7
Total	513	5.9	180	2.1	333	3.8	367	4.2	700	8.1

Junior High Longitudinal Dropout Rates

In 1985-86 junior high schools were added to the longitudinal data collection system. We now have three years' longitudinal data to report for junior high students. As Figure 8 shows, for first-time seventh graders of 1985-86, the dropout rate is about 11.6% as of October, 1988; it is 9.2% for Blacks, 15.2% for Hispanics, and 10.4% for Anglo/Others. Longitudinal dropout rates of cohorts of first-time seventh graders are now reported annually.

FIGURE 8
LONGITUDINAL DROPOUT RATE PROGRESSION OF TWO COHORTS OF FIRST-TIME SEVENTH GRADERS, BY ETHNICITY

Ethnicity: All

Dropout Rate As Of....

	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
Cohort	July	Oct.	July	Oct.	July	Oct.
1985-86	4.3	----	7.6	9.6	10.9	11.6
1986-87	5.0	8.2	8.8	10.0		
1987-88	4.2	6.0				

Ethnicity: Black

Dropout Rate As Of....

	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
Cohort	July	Oct.	July	Oct.	July	Oct.
1985-86	1.9	----	4.9	7.5	10.4	9.2
1986-87	3.8	7.3	7.2	8.8		
1987-88	2.8	4.6				

Ethnicity: Hispanic

Dropout Rate As Of....

	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
Cohort	July	Oct.	July	Oct.	July	Oct.
1985-86	6.2	----	10.3	11.2	14.6	15.2
1986-87	7.0	9.8	12.6	13.5		
1987-88	6.2	7.6				

Ethnicity: Anglo/Other

Dropout Rate As Of....

	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
Cohort	July	Oct.	July	Oct.	July	Oct.
1985-86	4.2	----	7.2	9.6	8.9	10.4
1986-87	4.2	7.4	7.0	8.3		
1987-88	3.5	5.5				

Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS)

This is the first year of the new mandatory statewide data collection system. Dropout numbers are part of that data submission. On the following pages are the calculations of the dropout rate from the PEIMS data submission and the numbers submitted to PEIMS for AISD. PEIMS uses a different cutoff data for reenrollment in the fall after a student has dropped out the previous school year and also uses a later data for transcript requests to be recieved; therefore, the PEIMS dropout numbers will vary from those given earlier in this report.

Calculation of Dropout Rate from PEIMS Data Submission

OCTOBER 1988 PEIMS DROPOUT COUNT: 2,639 (Grades 7-12)

DENOMINATOR		DROPOUT RATE
Definition	Count	Percentage
Average Daily Membership, October Attendance Period	24,805	10.6%
Membership, Fall Survey (October 1)	24,484	10.8%
Enrollment, Original Entries and Re-Entries, Superintendent's Annual Report	26,980	9.8%

COMMENTS: PEIMS defines the population of students from whom dropouts are identified as all students who enroll in a district during the school year. Therefore, the most appropriate denominator for calculating a dropout rate is a count of this actual population. This population is defined by the sum of original entries (students whose first enrollment in a Texas public school that year is in that district) and re-entries (students who enter a district after having first enrolled in another Texas school district) as reported on the Superintendent's Annual Report.

A.I.S.D. DROPOUT SUMMARY FOR 1987-88 8:33 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1988

OF PERIOD OF DROPOUT CODES

		DROP PER.							
		DURING 87-88		SUMMER-PASSED		SUMMER-FAILED		TOTAL	
LOC	LOCNAME	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
002	AUSTIN	78	61	18	14	32	25	128	100
003	JOHNSTON	133	68	40	20	24	12	197	100
004	LANIER	160	69	24	10	49	21	233	100
005	MCCALLUM	78	63	26	21	19	15	123	100
006	REAGAN	90	68	21	16	22	17	133	100
007	TRAVIS	218	76	36	13	32	11	286	100
008	CROCKETT	213	69	28	9	68	22	309	100
009	ANDERSON	140	78	17	9	23	13	180	100
010	JOHNSON (L.B.J.)	34	56	8	13	19	31	61	100
011	ROBBINS, W.R.	55	71	23	29	.	.	78	100
012	RICE	31	44	13	18	27	38	71	100
016	EVENING HIGH SCHOOL	52	81	8	13	4	6	64	100
043	FULMORE	34	47	37	51	1	1	72	100
044	KEALING	19	49	17	44	3	8	39	100
045	LAMAR	19	58	10	30	4	12	33	100
046	BURNET	15	58	7	27	4	15	26	100
047	O. HENRY	7	39	6	33	5	28	18	100
048	PEARCE	23	68	9	26	2	6	34	100
049	PORTER	30	71	9	21	3	7	42	100
051	MARTIN	35	69	15	29	1	2	51	100

(CONTINUED)

A.I.S.D. DROPOUT SUMMARY FOR 1987-88 8:33 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1988

OF PERIOD OF DROPOUT CODES

		DROP PER.							
		DURING 87 88		SUMMER-PASSED		SUMMER-FAILED		TOTAL	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
LOC	LOCNAME								
052	MURCHISON	21	54	14	36	4	10	39	100
054	BEDICHEK	15	29	30	59	6	12	51	100
055	DOBIE	14	61	6	26	3	13	23	100
057	COVINGTON	12	57	7	33	2	10	21	100
058	MENDEZ	21	41	30	59	.	.	51	100
250	AUSTIN STATE HOSP.	57	80	14	20	.	.	71	100
251	DEVELOP. CNTR	5	83	1	17	.	.	6	100
252	RIO GRANDE	19	50	19	50	.	.	38	100
253	HOMEBOUND	5	56	2	22	2	22	9	100
254	MARBRIDGE	6	75	2	25	.	.	8	100
255	MARY LEE	14	58	10	42	.	.	24	100
258	CLIFTON CENTER	6	60	3	30	1	10	10	100
259	TEENAGE PARENT	43	61	23	32	5	7	71	100
260	SHOAL CREEK	30	86	5	14	.	.	35	100
261	CHILDREN'S CEN. OF AUSTIN	2	100	.	.	.	.	2	100
262	SETTLEMENT CLUB	2	100	.	.	.	.	2	100
TOTAL		1736	66	538	20	365	14	2639	100

88.15

DISTRICT: 227901 AUSTIN I.S.D.

5. DROPOUT STUDENT DATA

201 STUDENT DROPOUT RECORDS: 2,639

GRADE	AM INDIAN	ASIAN	BLACK	HISPANIC	WHITE	TOTAL	SP.ED.
07	2 0%	6 0%	41 2%	144 5%	122 5%	315 12%	56 2%
08	1 0%	3 0%	60 2%	140 5%	128 5%	332 13%	80 3%
09	5 0%	12 0%	157 6%	320 12%	301 11%	795 30%	167 6%
10	1 0%	7 0%	94 4%	154 6%	232 9%	488 18%	104 4%
11	1 0%	11 0%	65 2%	102 4%	234 9%	413 16%	61 2%
12	1 0%	9 0%	53 2%	58 2%	175 7%	296 11%	24 1%
TOTALS	11 0%	48 2%	470 18%	918 35%	1,192 45%	2,639 100%	492 19%

Grades 7-8 Total 647

Grades 9-12 Total 1,992

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Austin Independent School District

Department of Management Information

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